

## RECONSIDERATION OF BOOKS AND/OR OTHER MATERIALS

The Governor Wentworth Regional School District supports the principles of intellectual freedom protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and encourages the free expression of opinions. The right of dissent, also protected by the First Amendment, allows objections to instructional materials to be raised. Any resident or employee of the school district, therefore, may formally challenge books and/or other instructional resources used in the district.

Any school, upon receiving a complaint regarding instructional material, shall try to resolve the issue informally. The principal, Academic Coordinator, or other appropriate administrator or staff member shall explain to the complainant the district's selection process and criteria, as well as the qualifications of those persons responsible for selecting the material. The appropriate administrator or staff member shall explain the particular place the questioned material occupies in the educational program and its intended use.

If the concerned party wishes to file a formal challenge, he/she shall be given a copy of the GWRSD Selection of Materials Policy and a Request for Reconsideration form, which must be completed and submitted to the building principal.

The Principal, upon receipt of a completed Request for Reconsideration form, will acknowledge receipt to the complainant and list the steps to be taken. The Principal will then notify the Superintendent and the Review Committee, and schedule the meetings necessary to review the complaint and write a report. The process shall begin within 15 school days after receipt of the completed request.

The final report, including a recommendation, will be forwarded to the Superintendent of Schools. If the Superintendent decides to retain the material, he or she shall then notify the complainant who shall have the right to appeal the decision within 15 days to the GWRSD School Board whose decision will be final.

Should the Superintendent decide to remove the material, he or she shall notify the complainant and recommend such action to the GWRSD School Board whose decision will be final.

Access to the challenged material shall not be restricted during the reconsideration process.

Adopted: 1/15/01  
Reaffirmed: 5/18/09